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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ISSA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 29, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL E. ISSA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. John W. Coker, Jr., Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

O God, in Your sight nations rise and fall and pass through times of peril. In Your name, our forebears won liberty for us all and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn.

Give constant and wise counsel to this Congress, to the President, and to the judiciary of this land. Make these servants equal to our trust, reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, generous in the protection of weakness. Be present with our Armed Forces throughout the world and with their families.

Keep us mindful of how small the Earth is, how interrelated our lives have become, and how fragile security and peace can be. Hold us together as one people. Guard us from prejudices against neighbors who, having come from many lands, now pledge allegiance to one flag.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and grant us Your peace.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPITO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. JOHN WRIGHT COKER, JR.

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored today to introduce to you the gentleman who just gave our opening prayer, our guest pastor, John Wright Coker, Jr., from Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Jay, as he is known to all of us as his friends, is a native of Leland, North Carolina, in southeastern North Carolina, which I have the great opportunity to represent.

His commitment to spreading the word of God both here in the United States and abroad is unparalleled. Currently serving in his 12th year as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, Jay has also led churches in South Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Active in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Dr. Coker serves on the Presbytery Council, the Committee on

Budget and Finance, and the Outreach Foundation. In addition, he has traveled the world with passion and purpose to spread God's word. From Mexico to the Middle East to Cuba, he has worked to build brighter and stronger communities while opening hearts and minds to the power and promise of God's unconditional love.

Mr. Speaker, Jay is blessed with a strong family, who are here with him today, including his wife, Sharon, and children John, Joseph, and Margaret Ann, and other friends and his mother.

Our State of North Carolina and Nation are blessed to have him as an ambassador of the Holy Scriptures and an ambassador of the promise we have for tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and may God's blessings be upon Dr. Coker and his family and, indeed, upon our Nation.

REPUBLICANS WIN HOUSE BASKETBALL TITLE

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce the results of the basketball game last night between the Republicans and the Democrats at Gallaudet University: 35-26, the Republicans prevailed. Try to curb your enthusiasm.

It was a wonderful game in the tradition. This is the 12th game in the series.

I want to thank our players, particularly SHIMKUS, FERGUSON, LOBIONDO, HULSHOF, WAMP, FOSSELLA, STEARNS, FLAKE, DENT, ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, we actually had two Senators, ENSIGN and THUNE. The good news was, of course, they are former House Members and they were trained the right way in basketball.

Gallaudet University is a great university, of course, the only school for

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the deaf in the entire country. We want to thank the NBA for helping sponsor this wonderful event.

I want to thank my counterpart, RON KIND, the captain of the Democratic team for their efforts. It was all for a good cause, and we are proud to display the trophy for this day on our side.

Thank you very much.

RUBBER-STAMPING REPUBLICANS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we used to do the people's business in the people's House when the Democrats were in charge.

Now the majority party rubber-stamps every bad policy that the administration serves up. House Republican leaders go even further with a little help from their friends. Indentured servitude to financial institutions is called bankruptcy reform. Rubber stamp.

Increasing drug company profits is sold as a medical benefit. Rubber stamp.

Increasing tax holidays for the super-rich, with poverty increasing among children in this country. Rubber stamp.

We used to have real debate in the people's House when the Democrats were in charge, but now the Republicans schedule 2-minute votes because the outcome is preordained. Rubber stamp.

When I brought this stamp out here, people laughed. Now nobody laughs because it is the order of the day.

NO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, justice is lacking in the Ohio criminal court of Judge John Connor. Sexual deviant, Andrew Selva, admitted to approximately 20 assaults against a 5-year-old and a 12-year-old. In most societies, Selva would be looking at a life sentence in the jailhouse. But Judge Connor put the criminal on probation and basically told him, try to do better.

The judge obviously lives in the never-never land of excusable conduct. Child molesters belong behind bars. That is why we build the penitentiaries. That is the only therapy that works for these predators.

And the DA's office is a cohort in this injustice since it reduced the charges and had a case of trial sickness, a term applied to inferior and unprepared prosecutors who will not go to trial and advocate on behalf of victims for fear of losing the case.

The real losers are the two victims. The criminal abused them and then the judge and the DA abused them and victimized them again. The judge and the DA should both resign and become de-

fense attorneys, since they both obviously are more concerned about criminals than they are victims.

Mr. Speaker, in this particular case, the judge and the DA would both be found guilty of inexcusable conduct if they were judged by the community. And that's just the way it is.

THE FLAWED POLICIES OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush said that we were going to bring our troops home, but it is going to be a problem for the next President.

This is not a strategy to win the peace; it is just running out the clock and letting the next coach play sudden death. His flawed premise got us into this war ill prepared. He was wrong when he famously declared 1,061 days ago, "Mission accomplished," but his worst calculation is just holding on.

It is time to start bringing the troops home according to a plan. As we phase down, it is important to increase Iraq's role in its own future. It is immoral to just pass this on to the next President, and shame on us if we let President Bush do that.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT MARCO SILVA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On the 13th of this month, the family of Staff Sergeant Marco Silva experienced the tragic loss of a loving father, devoted husband, and courageous soldier. I would like to offer to the Silvas my deepest condolences on their terrible loss.

Staff Sergeant Silva served two tours of duty in Iraq as an Army air assault sniper for the 101st Airborne Division and had been bravely serving and defending our country since 2002.

Staff Sergeant Silva is a true hero, not only to the people of his hometown in Homestead, Florida, but to all who value the sacrifices that are made every day to keep our country safe and to spread democracy.

Staff Sergeant Silva selflessly fought to defend the liberties that we cherish here in the United States. I ask that your thoughts and prayers be with the Silva family during this most difficult time.

KEEP AMERICA COMPETITIVE GLOBAL WARMING POLICY ACT OF 2006

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, there is solid, scientific consensus that global warming is real. Many believe that the erratic and record-breaking weather events we are seeing across the country, such as the prolonged droughts in my home State of New Mexico, are the result of global warming.

To combat this problem, I will introduce the Keep America Competitive Global Warming Policy Act of 2006 with my colleague from Wisconsin, the Honorable TOM PETRI. We believe it is time for America to take steps to address global warming. We have structured a policy that will not put America's jobs at risk.

This bill is modest and certain as well as efficient. Our policy internalizes the cost of global warming through a cap and trade system on all greenhouse gas emissions with a fixed price safety valve.

This monumental step of putting a price on greenhouse gases will stabilize and eventually reduce emissions, finally putting the United States of America on the road towards curbing the effects of global warming. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUPPORT THE KEEP AMERICA COMPETITIVE GLOBAL WARMING ACT

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, for the past 30 years there has been a great debate over the true impact of greenhouse gases on global warming. There is now general consensus that they are having a significant impact on our planet, and it is time for us to act. That is why I am cosponsoring Congressman TOM UDALL's Keep America Competitive Global Warming Act.

His bill is a commonsense approach to reducing emissions. Unlike past legislative efforts that would drive industries out of our country and increase home energy bills exponentially, this bill takes into account the true costs of emission reductions.

The legislation sets a reasonable standard for emissions and allows companies to buy the time they need to meet our reduction requirements without incurring irreparable financial harm. What makes this bill unique and effective is that it is flexible enough to give industry the opportunity to adapt without forcing business to drastically hike prices, lay off workers or move abroad.

Greenhouse gas reduction needs to be a higher priority for this Nation. As the biggest producer of emissions, we must be a leader, a leader in demonstrating that we can reduce emissions in a meaningful way while maintaining our global competitiveness.